

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075260  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 PA-01 PRS-01 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:GHAMILTON JR

APPROVED BY: AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

NOTE:MPI REENTRY (CORRECTED COPY LAGOS)

-----050308Z 060835 /63

P 050049Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: US PRESS COVERAGE - ZAIRE

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF ACCOUNT OF US PRESS COVERAGE  
OF EVENTS IN ZAIRE.

2. THE NEW YORK TIMES (4/1):

-- AP REPORTS FROM KINSHASA THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF  
ZAIRE CONCEDED THE LOSS OF MUTSHATSHA. DURING A PRESS  
CONFERENCE FOREIGN REPORTERS WERE WARNED AGAINST  
"UNDERMINING AND SABOTAGING" THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT BY  
EXAGGERATING REBEL ADVANCES IN SHABA. LATER  
CORRESPONDENTS FOUND THAT CENSORS HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO  
THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE OF KINSHASA, FROM WHICH  
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NEARLY ALL NEWS COPY IS TRANSMITTED.

3. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (4/1):

--GEOFFREY GADSELL WRITES OF NIGERIA'S DIPLOMATIC  
EFFORT TO END THE DANGEROUS DISPUTE BETWEEN ZAIRE AND  
ANGOLA OVER THE INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE.

4. THE BALTIMORE SUN (4/1):

--CHARLES W. CORDDRY REPORTS THAT OFFICIAL SOURCES  
HERE BELIEVE THAT ZAIRE DEFENSES IN SHABA ARE COLLAPSING,

MAKING IT INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT THE UNITED STATES  
WOULD RESPOND TO AN URGENT REQUEST FOR ARMS AID TO  
ZAIRE.

5. AP REPORT OF CENSORSHIP, AND OF MOBUTU'S CHANGE  
OF ARMY LEADERSHIP WIDELY REPORTED.

6. THE NEW YORK TIMES (4/4)

--AP REPORTS FROM ZAIRE THAT A QUIET CROWD OF 20,000  
SHOWED UP AT AN OFFICIAL RALLY TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH  
MOBUTU. THE STADIUM WAS LESS THAN FILLED AND THE CROWD  
APPEARED UNENTHUSIASTIC.

7. THE WASHINGTON POST (4/4)

-- ROBIN WRIGHT REPORTS FROM KINSHASA ON THE SMALL AND  
UNENTHUSIASTIC TURNOUT AT THE OFFICIAL RALLY IN SUPPORT  
OF MOBUTU IN KINSHASA.

-- UNDER THE HEADING "THE CULT OF MOBUTU", DAVID LAMB  
WRITES OF THE MAN AND HIS EXTRAVAGANCES.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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